Amendment to Prevention of Corruption Act

*454. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Prevention of Corruption Act in such a manner as to enable Government to confiscate ill-gotten wealth from even third parties benami holders; and

(b) if so, what steps have so far been third arties benami holders; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, 1944 contains provisions for attachment of property procured through ill-gotten means as also for attachment of property of malafide transferees. Thus the necessary powers are already available. However, the question of introducing a comprehensive Prevention of Corruption Bill to make the provisions on the existing anti-corruption laws more effective is under consideration.

Indo-US agreement for modernisation of Telecommunications in India

*455. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any accord has recently been signed between Indian and the US for American participation in India's telecommunications expansion and modernisaton; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Journalists arrested and charged by Government after operation "Blue Star"

*456. SHRI K. GOPALAN:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of journalists arrested and charged by Government in connection with Punjab problem since peration Blue Star;

(b) the name of the journalist involved and details of the action taken thereof;

(c) the names of the newspaper/weeklies|magazines against whom action has been initiated by the Government; and

(d) details of each case and whether any appeal|request was received to drop the action, if so, details thereof and action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Park demand for F-16's ad AWACS from US

*457. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:
SHRI J. P. GOYAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of Pakistan's latest demand to the US for the supply of another five squadrons of F-16 fighter planes, in addition to the early warning radar planes, which would give tremendous boost to Pakistan's air force striking power;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any critical analysis of Pakistan's piling up of highly sophisticated arms and ammunition, besides building up air striking power, thus posing serious threat to the security of the country and causing military imbalance in the sub-continent;

(c) what is India's percentage of defence expenditure of its GNP as compared